

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 223830

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223830

TOSEC 467

FOLLOWING STATE 223830 SENT BRUSSELS NATO PEKING NOV 13
RPT TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223830

EXDIS TOSEC 467

BRUSSELS FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO PEKING, CAIRO, TEL AVIV FROM
USUN NOV 13 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4708

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR UN XF

SUBJ: WALDHEIM CONCERN OVER SITUATION ON CIARO-SUEZ ROAD

SUMMARY: SYG CALLED URGENTLY TO REPORT THAT MEETING
BETWEEN DAYAN AND SIILASVUO TO RESOLVE QUESTION OF
CHECKPOINT AT KM 119 WAS ROUGH AND UNSUCCESSFUL. UPSHOT
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PAGE 02 STATE 223830

WAS THAT DAYAN REQUESTED SIILASVUO TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY

UNEF FORCES FROM KM 119 AND THAT IF NECESSARY ISRAELIS WOULD REMOVE THEM BY FORCE. SYG APPEALED FOR IMMEDIATE USG ACTION TO PERSUADE ISRAELI THAT THEIR POSITION CONTRARY TO FIRST SENTENCE POINT E OF AGREEMENT AND PREVENTS UNEF FROM CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTIONS. IN MEAN-TIME HE TEMPORARILY WITHDREW FORCES UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIED AT POLITICAL LEVEL. HOWEVER HE EXPECTS STRONG ADVERSE REACTION FROM EGYPTIANS AND OTHERS TO THIS ACTION.

1. WHILE SCALI WAS MEETING WITH MALIK AND SYG CALLED URGENTLY, BENNETT TOOK CALL. SYG DESCRIBED SITUATION ON CAIRO-SUEZ ROAD AS VERY SERIOUS, VERY URGENT, MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN YESTERDAY. HE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FOR GENERAL SIILASVUO, CALLING FROM ISRAEL WHERE HE HAD GONE ON WALDHEIM'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CONFER WITH DAYAN.

2. DAYAN-SIILASVUO MEETING WAS A ROUGH ONE, ACCORDING TO SYG. HE DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AS "STRONG." DAYAN HAD TOLD SIILASVUO UNEF WAS NOT GOING TO FORCE HIM TO DO ANYTHING HE THOUGHT WRONG FROM ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW. SIILASVUO HAD REPLIED IN LIKE TONE, THAT DAYAN WAS NOT GOING TO FORCE HIM AND UNEF TO TAKE WRONG ACTIONS OR TO KEEP THEM FROM DOING THEIR ASSIGNED DUTY.

3. DAYAN AND SIILASVUO WERE ABLE TO SETTLE SOME POINTS AT ISSUE BUT NOT THE MAJOR PROBLEM OF KILOMETER 119. DAYAN ASSERTED ISRAELIS DO NOT INTERPRET AGREEMENT TO MEAN THAT THE UN IS TO REPLACE ISRAELI CHECKPOINTS ON CAIRO-SUEZ ROAD. WALDHEIM COMMENTED HE BELIEVES ANY REASONABLE MAN WOULD INTERPRET FIRST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 5 TO MEAN EXACTLY THAT. COMMENT: THIS WAS SYG'S QUOTE OF DAYAN. DISPUTE MAY ACUTALLY HINGE ON WHO IS TO CONTROL ROAD.

4. DAYAN TOOK POSITION ISRAELIS ACCEPT UN CHECKPOINT AT KILOMETER 101 SRNCE THAT IS THE LIMIT OF THEIR ZONE. HOWEVER, KILOMETER 119, HE SAID, IS IN MIDDLE OF ISRAELI ONE AND CHECKPOINT THERE COULD BLOCK ISRAELI SUPPLY OF THEIR FORCES. DAYAN ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED SIILASVUO TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY UNEF FORCES FROM KILOMETER 119 (FINNISH CONTINGENT HAD
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PAGE 03 STATE 223830

SPENT WHOLE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 12-13 THERE). DAYAN WENT ON TO STATE THAT, IF SIILASVUO DID NOT WITHDRAW HIS MEN, ISRAELIS WOULD REMOVE THE MEN BY FORCE.

5. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD ASKED S
ILASVUO FOR HIS RECOM-
MENDATIONS. SIILASVUO HAD SAID THAT RELUCTANTLY HE WOULD PREFER TO WITHDRAW FROM KILOMETER 119 RATHER THAN TO HAVE

A DISPLAY OF FORCE WHICH MIGHT END IN SHOOTING OR OTHER VIOLENCE. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD THEREFORE INSTRUCTED SIILASVUO TO WITHDRAW UNEF FROM KILOMETER 119, MAKING CLEAR THAT WITHDRAWAL IS TEMPORARY AND THAT UNEF EXPECTS TO RETURN. POINT WOULD BE MADE THAT THIS IS NOT A MATTER TO BE SETTLED BY MILITARY DECISION BUT BY POLITICAL AUTHORITIES. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD MADE THIS CONCESSION IN THE INTERESTS OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE RECALLED HIS CONVERSATION WITH SCALI YESTERDAY AND SAID HE CONTINUED IN FULL AGREEMENT THAT WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN AT THIS STAGE TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH COULD DESTROY THE AGREEMENT.

6. AT MIDDAY PRESS BRIEFING HERE UN SPOKESMAN WILL, IF HE HAS TO COMMENT ON SITUATION, STRESS THAT UNEF WITHDRAWAL IS TEMPORARY WHILE THE DIPLOMATS IRON OUT THE SITUATION.

7. WALDHEIM SAID THAT UNEF WOULD HAVE NO THOUGHT OF TAKING ANY ACTION TO BLOCK ISRAELI FORCES FROM SUPPLYING THEIR OWN TROOPS. IF NECESSARY, MATTERS COULD BE ARRANGED WITH UN CHECKPOINT ON ONE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND ISRAELI CHECKPOINT ON THE OTHER. THIS, HOWEVER, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD NOT BE IN LINE WITH AGREEMENT BUT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE THAT CONCESSION IN ORDER TO ENABLE UNEF TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE.

8. HE URGED USG TO GET INTO THE MATTER IMMEDIATELY AND MAKE CLEAR TO THE ISRAELIS THAT THEIR PRESENT POSTURE IS PREVENTING UNEF FROM CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO IT. HE COMMENTED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE FURIOUS AT THIS LATEST ISRAELI ACTION. HE SAID HE WAS APPEALING TO THE US AS THE ONLY PARTY WHICH HAS THE AUTHORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 223830

TO PERSUADE THE ISRAELIS TO ACT IN A REASONABLE WAY. HE AGAIN STRESSED URGENCY OF THE SITUATION AND HIS CONVICTION THAT IT IS MORE SERIOUS THAN YESTERDAY.

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